

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for starting an engine system of a vehicle, comprising:  
in response to a start request, performing a starter-free starting method;  
testing whether the starter-free starting method leads to a successful start of the engine system; and  
if the engine system is not successfully started using the starter-free starting method, automatically starting the engine system using a starter,  
wherein the testing for the successful start is conducted by evaluating at least one of an oil temperature of the engine system and a position of a crankshaft of the engine system.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the testing for the successful start is conducted by evaluating a rotary speed of the engine system.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the starter-free starting method is a pulse starting method.
7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the starter-free starting method is a direct start method.
8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the engine system is started directly in the direct start method using direct gasoline injection.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
if the automatic starter start fails, automatically starting the engine system with the aid of the starter-free starting method.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the start request is detected upon operation of an operating element when the engine system is shut down.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the operating element is an accelerator.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

if the start request is after a shutting down of the engine system, testing whether the rotary speed of the engine system is in a first specified range; and

if the rotary speed is in the first specified range, starting the engine system in a starter-free manner.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method as recited in claim 12 for starting an engine system of a vehicle, further comprising:

in response to a start request, performing a starter-free starting method;

testing whether the starter-free starting method leads to a successful start of the engine system, wherein the testing for the successful start is conducted by evaluating a rotary speed of the engine system;

if the engine system is not successfully started using the starter-free starting method, automatically starting the engine system using a starter;

if the start request is after a shutting down of the engine system, testing whether the rotary speed of the engine system is in a first specified range;

if the rotary speed is in the first specified range, starting the engine system in a starter-free manner; and

if the rotary speed of the engine system is in a second specified range, which is below the first specified range, starting the engine system by an immediate intervention of the starter.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

if the rotary speed of the engine system is in a third range, which is below the second specified range, starting the engine system by the intervention of the starter, after a running down of the internal combustion engine.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for starting an engine system of a vehicle, comprising:

an arrangement configured to perform a starter-free start of the engine system in response to a start request;

a testing arrangement configured to test whether the starter-free start leads to a successful start of the engine system; and

a switchover arrangement configured to automatically start the engine system using a starter if the starter-free start did not lead to a successful start,

wherein the testing for the successful start is conducted by evaluating at least one of an oil temperature of the engine system and a position of a crankshaft of the engine system.

16. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

in response to a start request after the engine system has been switched off and while the engine system is shutting down, starting the engine system using one of the starter-free starter method and the starter depending on a speed of the engine system.

17. (New) A method for starting an engine system of a vehicle, comprising:

in response to a start request after the engine system has been switched off and while the engine system is running down, starting the engine system using one of a starter-free starting method and a starter depending on a speed of the engine system.

18. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein:

in response to the start request, performing the starter-free starting method;  
testing whether the starter-free starting method leads to a successful start of the engine system; and

if the engine system is not successfully started using the starter-free starting method, automatically starting the engine system using the starter.

19. (New) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the testing for the successful start is conducted by evaluating a speed of the engine system.

20. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

if an induced starter start fails, automatically starting the engine system using the starter-free starting method.

21. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the start request is detected upon operation of an operating element when the engine system is shut down, the operating element being an accelerator pedal.

22. (New) A device for starting an engine system of a vehicle, comprising:

a testing arrangement configured to ascertain a speed of the engine system in response to a start request after the engine system is switched off and while the engine system is running down; and

a switchover arrangement configured to start the engine system using one of a starter-free method and a starter, depending on the ascertained speed of the engine system.

23. (New) A device for starting an engine system of a vehicle, comprising:

a testing arrangement configured to test whether an induced-starter start is failing; and

a switchover arrangement configured to start the engine system using a starter-free method if the induced-starter start fails.